Vol. VIII. Numb. 34

THE OBSERVATOR.

Remarks on the Memorial of our Merchants about the Tobacco-Trade. More Arguments to prove our Right to Nova Scotia; *and that this, with all that call'd* French Canada, *ought to be demanded at the Treaty, together with all* Newfoundland. *The Importance of that Fishery to* Great Britain.

From Wednesday, May 25. to Saturday, May 28. 1709.

Country-m. BEing t'other Day at the *Virginia*-Coffee-house, Master, I heard some Persons talking of, a Memorial the *Virginia*-Merchants had presented to the Lords Commissioners of Trade. Do you know any Thing of the Purport of it?

Obs. Yes, *Roger*, I have heard they do in general hint at the great Inconveniencies that Trade labours under, and desire, that some Care may be taken (in the ensuing Treaty of Peace) for its Encouragement.

Country-m. Then I find, Master, they are of your Mind. But what would those Gentlemen have the Government do?

Obs. There is but one Way to retrieve that important Trade, *Roger*, (which their Modesty would but just give 'em leave to touch in their Memorial) and that is, the obtaining a free Importation throughout the *French* Territories, for all Sorts of Tobacco, whether cut, Leaf, Roll, *&c.* paying a reasonable Duty for the same, without being under any Stank or Farm whatsoever: And this, *Roger*, in short, is what our wise Government I hope will take particular Care off, it being the only Remedy left to revive that noble Trade, so advantagious to the Government and the Nation, which otherwise is inevitably lost.

Country-m. I am very glad to hear, Master, that your Discourse and mine has any Sort of Influence to awake People to consider the Interest of the Nation at this important Juncture; but I don't love to hear of so much Modesty among Merchants, as any Way lessens their Efforts for the Good of their Country and Trade. I know there have been Times, when, under Pretences of Modesty, and the Inconveniency of making this or that Great Man uneasy, Merchants, and others too, have conceal'd Cowardice, or perhaps something that was worse, to the great Loss and Dishonour of their Country; but those Days being over, as we have Reason to hope, I take it to be the Duty of our Merchants and Traders, to tell their Minds freely. We know what the Nation suffer'd formerly by the ill Management of the Fleet, and for Want of Cruisers and Convoys, which forc'd the Merchants to break Silence at last. That's a fair Warning for them, Master, not to be over modest or silent now in any Thing relating to the Advancement of our Trade; but if there be any such among us, as get more by being silent in what relates to the Good of their Country, than others do by speaking for it, may their Sin be their Punishment, and let their Tongues cleave for ever to the Roofs of their Mouths; for he that will not speak for the Interest of his Country, deserves to be struck dumb.

Obs. Hold, *Roger*, you grow angry.

Country-m. I always look'd upon Indifference in the Cause of one's Country, Master, to be criminal; and I am sure it could never be more so, than now; therefore the only Way to keep me in Humour, and to make my Conversation easy to you, is, to go on as we have begun, to talk freely for the Interest of our native Land. Be pleas'd then to go on a little about *New Scotland*; I would fain have the Monsieurs outed of that Part of the World, Master.

Obs. I am as willing they should as you, *Roger*; and so much the more, because the People of *New England* are so apprehensive of the ill Consequences of their Neighbourhood, that they resolv'd to drive them out at their own Charge in 1690, and accordingly sent Sir *William Phipps*, who took *Port Royal* from them, sent the *French* Garrison a packing, and oblig'd the People that stay'd, to swear Allegiance to King *William* and Queen *Mary*; after which the *English* for some Time carry'd on a beneficial Traffick with the Natives for Furs, so as the Baron *La Hontan*, in his Account of those Parts, complain'd, that he fear'd in Time they would quite drive the *French* out of that Trade: But *Lewis* the XIVth took Care to prevent that, *Roger*, by sending Forces which recover'd *Port Royal*, and other Places there: So that we have nothing but the Title, while the *French* keep the Possession.

Country-m. I don't much wonder, Master, if some People who took so little Care to keep the *French* out of *Old Scotland*, should neglect all to drive them out of the *New*; but I hope, since Providence has lately made such an Alteration in the State of Affairs, there will be Care taken now to recover by Treaty, what we have not done by Arms; otherwise new Faults may bring old ones to Remembrance, that it will not be in the Power of any Oblivion to bury them. We have no Kingdoms, Provinces, Frontier-Towns, or Barriers to demand of the *French* on the Continent; and 'tis our Happiness, that our natural Situation makes them needless to us, otherwise some People might make a Handle of them to keep up a Standing-Army, and use them as a Bone to throw in the Teeth of our Parliaments, when they come to enquire into Grievances, as the Courtiers in King *Charles* the IId's Time made Use of *Tangier*.

Obs. I hope, *Roger*, as well as you, that there will be Care taken of that Matter at the Treaty; for since, as you very well observe, we have nothing to demand of the *French* upon the Continent, 'tis but reasonable they should restore us all these Plantations to which we have so just a Title; and, considering, that we have been at a greater Expence of Blood and Treasure, than any of the Allies, in bringing *France* to Reason, 'tis but just our Allies should stand by us in those Demands, as we have stood by theirs. Nor is there any Cause to doubt their doing so, if we be not wanting to our selves. But to return to *Nova Scotia*, the Importance of having it restor'd, and indeed of having the *French* drove out of all that Country, is so necessary for the Security of our Plantations of *New England*, *Newfoundland*, &c. and the Danger that might accrue to us by their surrounding our Colonies in those Parts, from *Canada* and *Mississippi*-River, has been so frequently represented, that if there be still a Neglect of doing the Nation Justice in that Matter, it will fall heavy somewhere at last. Those who presented Memorials on that Subject, with Schemes for dislodging the *French* long ago, may perhaps break Silence some Time or other, and take such an Opportunity for it, as 'twill be hard for such as have been guilty of those fatal Neglects, to ward off the Charge.

Country-m. I find by the Description of the Place, Master, in the History of *The* British *Empire in* America,

merica, that 'tis a very pleaſant Country, abounds with Corn and Fruit, has ſeveral navigable Rivers and Bays, that abound with Fiſh, *&c.* ſo that it ſeems worth our while to put in our Claim to it, and not give up our Right in Complaiſance, as King *Charles* the IId and his Courtiers did by the Treaty of *Breda*, in 1667. But I would be a little better ſatisfy'd about our Title to it, Maſter.

Obj. I ſaid enough in our laſt, *Roger*, to ſatisfy any Man, according to the Way of determining Titles to Acquiſitions in the *Weſt Indies*; but to ſatisfy you farther, *Roger*, Dr. *Heylin* tells us, That the *Engliſh* had the Precedency of Diſcovery in all thoſe Countries, which the *French* now call *Nova Francia*, and particularly of this. The *Virginians* knew this ſo well, that under their Governor, Sir *Samuel Argal*, they outed the *French*; and much about the ſame Time, King *James* the Iſt gave a Grant of it to Sir *William Alexander*, in 1621. of which the Author of *The* Britiſh *Empire in* America gives the following Account, *viz.* That Sir *Ferdinand de Gorges*, being Preſident of the *New England* Company, and conſidering the Extent of their Charter, he propos'd to Sir *William Alexander*, to procure a particular Patent for the Land to the *Northward* of *New England*, which Sir *William*, who was in Favour with King *James*, eaſily obtain'd; and for the better Accompliſhment of his Deſign, Dr. *Heylin* ſays, he alſo procur'd a Patent for advancing a certain Number of Perſons to the hereditary Dignity of Baronets, then call'd Knights of *Nova Scotia*, that with the Money ſo rais'd, he might advance his Plantation. But he afterwards ſold *Port Royal* to the *French*, and gave over purſuing his Deſign.

Country-m. Aye, Maſter, 'tis not the only Time that *Scotch* Courtiers, as well as others, have ſold their Country. But ſince it was a knaviſh Bargain firſt and laſt, I hope Care will be taken now to make void that Sale, as well as the *Breda*-Treaty, when King *Charles* the IId, and his *Engliſh* Courtiers, ſold it again. But enough of *Nova Scotia*, Maſter, remember your Promiſe to give an Account of the Importance of the *Newfoundland*-Fiſhery to *England*.

Obj. With all my Heart, *Roger*. *The Conſiderations on the* Newfoundland-*Trade, drawn up by the Advice of ſome of our* Weſt-*Country-Burroughs*, informs us, That beſides the Advantages we formerly mention'd, ariſing to *England* from that Trade, two thirds at leaſt of the Returns of that Fiſhery, were in Bullion or Bills of Exchange; that twenty Years quiet Poſſeſſion of this Trade, is capable of making any Prince that has it, the moſt formidable both by Sea and Land, by the yearly Increaſe of Men, Ships, Bullion, *&c.* And this they prove, *Roger*, by the *French*, who, when they were firſt let into this Trade, had but very few Ships, and thoſe too of inconſiderable Force and Bulk; whereas they have ſince been enabl'd frequently to contend at Sea with the united Powers of *England* and *Holland*, and have beſides a great many ſtout and large Privateers, to infeſt our Coaſts, and ruin our Merchants; and of late Years employ in this Fiſhery of *Newfoundland*, 4 or 500 Sail of Ships, many of them of good Burthen, from 16 to 40 Guns, that carry (allowing but from 30 to 40 Men *per* Ship) 16000 Men; of which one fourth being green Men, they muſt conſequently breed up by this ſingle Trade, 4000 Sailors every Year.

Country-m. That ſhews the Importance of it with a Witneſs, Maſter, as it does how much we are oblig'd to thoſe Gentlemen who let him into it, and likewiſe to thoſe who neglected the Repreſentations of our Merchants for ſaving the ſmall Intereſt we had left in it, and recovering the whole, as you and I diſcours'd lately. But pray, Maſter, can you tell me how our Court came to be ſo infatuated at firſt, as to let the *French* into any Share of that Trade?

Obſ. You are no Stranger, *Roger*, to the Influence that *French* Queens, *French* Miſſes, *French* Money, and Love to a *French* Sort of Religion and Method of Government, has had in befooling our Courts oftner than once. You know I told you before, that the *French* firſt obtain'd Leave to fiſh there in the Reign of King *Charles* the Iſt; and I am credibly inform'd, *Roger*, that the Priviledge was obtain'd by his Queen, on Pretence that a few Ships only might be allow'd to fiſh there, for the Benefit of a Monaſtry in *France*. But enough of this at preſent, *Roger*.

Advertiſements.

O rare Periwigs!

COME, Brother, let's make a fine Thing
For every Son of Adam;
Let's buy the ſmooth Hair of Women,
(That part with their Glory (a)
To purchaſe ſome Rigging)
And the courſe Hair of a Beaſt,
Either Horſe, Mare, or Goat.
Let's draw 'em, and mix 'em, and curle 'em;
Let's boil 'em, and dry 'em, and bake 'em;
Let's weave 'em, and ſew 'em
Unto a ſilk Cawl and a Riſſbond;
And ſay, 'twill make an old Man look young.
A young Man look grave;
'Twill make a Man handſome and brave
In a Lady's Eye.
He may ſtand with his Hat in his Hand,
Or under his Arm, like a Monſieur.
What would a Man more,
Than to imitate thoſe
That aim'd to be Lords of the World?
Let's make 'em pay well for this Medly,
And buy us Eſtates
With the Sins of all that dare venter
To pray or to preach
With Heads that are cover'd,
Tho' not with black Hats;
No Matter for that,
'Tis contrary to the Command. (b)

(a) But if a Woman have long Hair, it is a Glory to her. 1 Cor. 11. 15.

(b) Every Man praying or propheſying, having his Head cover'd, diſhonoureth his Head. For a Man indeed ought not to cover his Head, foraſmuch as he is the Image and Glory of God. 1 Cor. 11. 4, 7.

Juſt publiſh'd, the ſecond Edition of

☞ An Account of the wonderful Cures perform'd by the cold Baths; with Advice to the Water-Drinkers at Tunbridge, Hampſtead, Aſtrope, Nafborough, and all the other chalibeate Spaws; wherein the Uſefulneſs of cold Bathing is farther recommended to the Lovers of Coffee, Tea, Chocolate, Brandy, &c. preferring the Uſe of Bathing in thoſe Springs, before the Drinking of their Waters. With a Table of the Diſeaſes in which cold Baths are proper or dangerous. To which is prefix'd, a Letter from Sir John Floyer, in Anſwer to one of the Author's to him, about the farther Uſe of cold Baths. By Dr. Browne. Sold by A. Betteſworth at the Red Lyon on London-Bridge. Price 1 s. 6 d.

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☞ Eliz. Tutchin, Widow of the late John Tutchin, who formerly kept a Boarding-ſchool at Newington-Green and Shacklewell, now keeps a School near the Nags-head at Highgate; where is good Accommodation for Lodgers.

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